approach road from the National Highway to the Terminal Building. The land has been identified and the State Govt. has been requested to acquire this land. There is also a proposal to extend the apron to accommodate 2 AB-320 and 2 B-737 aircraft simultaneously.

(d) Tourist charter flights can be operated to any airport subject to availability of customs and immigration facilities.

Expansion of air services in North-Eastern region

957. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps contemplated by Government to modernise and expand air travel in North-East region;

(b) whether any special steps had been taken during the past five years in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and impact of each of these steps in the sphere of air service in the region?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) With a view to provide better regulation of air transport services and taking into account the need for air transport services of different region in the country, the Government has issued the route dispersal guidelines. According to these guidelines all scheduled operators are required to deploy a minimum of 10% of their deployed capacity on trunk route (category-I routes), in the North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (category-II routes); 1% of the capacity deployed on category-II routes is to be deployed exclusively within Category-II stations.

Upgradation and modernisation of infrastructure facilities at the airports located in the North Eastern Region have been taken up by the Government in a phased manner by funding on cost sharing basis between North Eastern Council (NEC) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in the ratio of 60:40. Budgetary support is also provided to AAI to meet its 40% share. The following scheme/projects have been under taken/completed:—

(i) Night Landing facilities, modern State of the art RADAR have been provided and Passenger Terminal Building Complex is also being upgraded at Guwahati. Night operation have been approved at Guwahati and Agartala Airports;

(ii) Modern Navigational Aids, ground lighting facilities have also been provided during the past 5 years at Imphal, Dimapur, Agartala, Tezpur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Silchar making them suitable for jet operations in all weather conditions;

(iii) Lilabari Airport is being upgraded for jet operations and a new airport at Lengpui (Mizoram) has been constructed for B-737 operations;

(iv) A proposal to provide a few concessions/incentives for operations with small aircraft (upto 55 seater) is also contemplated. This will facilitate improved airlinks in the North East Region.

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में रिक्त पद

958. **श्री मुनव्वर हसन:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उनके मंत्रालय के अधीन विभिन्न स्कंधों में ग्रुप "ए", "बी", "सी" व "डी" कर्मियों के रिक्त स्थानों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उक्त रिक्त स्थान कब से खाली पड़े हैं; और

(ग) इन रिक्त स्थानों को कब तक भर दिया जायेगा अथवा भरने का विचार है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार): (क) और (ख) ब्यौरे विवरण में दिए गए हैं। (नीचे देखिए)